United Nations A/HRC/WG.6/30/RUS/3

General Assembly

Distr.: General
9 March 2018

Original: English

Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Thirtieth session
7-18 May 2018

Summary of Stakeholders' submissions on Russian Federation*

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review. It is a summary of 29 Stakeholders' submissions[1] to the universal periodic review, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints. A separate section is provided for the contribution by the national human rights institution that is accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles.

II. Information provided by the national human rights institution accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles

2. The Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation (CHRRF) was pleased that since the second cycle of the universal periodic review of the Russian Federation, the Federal Constitutional Law "On the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation" was amended in 2015 and 2016, expanding the mandate of the institution of the Commissioner and strengthening its independence.[2]

3. The Commissioner stated that during the last four years, the establishment of a comprehensive network of regional human rights commissioners in all 85 constituent entities of the Russian Federation was completed; laws on regional commissioners for human rights formalizing their status were adopted by regional legislatures, and regional human rights commissioners acting on the basis of regional and special federal laws were

* The present document was not edited before being sent to United Nations translation services.

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appointed. Furthermore, positions of commissioners for protection of small indigenous peoples' rights (hereinafter "the SIPs") were introduced in three constituent entities of the Russian Federation, namely, the Saha (Yakutia) Republic, the Kamchatka Territory, and the Krasnoyarsk Territory.[3]

4. The Commissioner commended the Russian Federation for having paid close attention to the question of support for the SIPs despite some concerns regarding the improvement of their quality of life. In this regard the Commissioner recommended that the Government develop and adopt at the federal level a voluntary procedure of provision of documentary evidences of ethnic belonging to the small indigenous peoples of the North.[4]

5. The Commissioner stated that over the reporting period, the Russian authorities have taken a range of measures to provide social assistance to the population, especially to vulnerable groups of the population, such as the disabled, pensioners, children and women. However, the Commissioner stated that there is the need for an improved mechanism to ensure socio-economic rights of foreign citizens moving to the Russian Federation as permanent residents.[5]

6. The Commissioner noted that over 40 per cent of complaints received are lodged against violations of housing rights. The Commissioner released her Special Report "On Protection of Citizens' Housing Rights" where she commented on the most urgent housing and communal services issues.[6]

7. The Commissioner stated that more work needed to be done on the protection of rights of people with disabilities. The Commissioner strongly recommended that the Russian Federation expedite the adoption of the draft federal law that is awaiting approval by the Parliament and provide wheelchair users with the unequivocal right to unhindered access to apartment buildings.[7]

8. The Commissioner stated that over the reporting period, the Government took a range of measures to humanize further the penal system. The Commissioner recommended improving mechanisms and methods of the penitentiary system; considering the introduction of the concept of "criminal misdemeanour" to the Russian legislation; and drawing the attention to the need of full provision of the penitentiary institutions with medical equipment and medicine, and the allocation of additional funding for that purpose.[8]

9. The Commissioner stated that legislation on non-profit organizations classified as "foreign agents" has been the subject of some amendments. The Commissioner recommended that the Russian Federation clarify further the legal notion of "non-profit organization acting as a foreign agent".[9]

III. Information provided by other stakeholders

A. Scope of international obligations[10] and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies[11]

10. International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI) recommended that the Russian authorities engage in active cooperation with the international human rights monitoring mechanisms, including by extending a standing invitation to the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council.[12]

11. Human Rights House recommended that the Government fully cooperate with state bodies, governmental human rights institutions and international organisations such as the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council and the Council of Europe.[13]

12. The Council of Europe (CoE) and JS1 urged the Russian authorities to sign and ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.[14]

13. Cultural Survival (CS), JS7 and Yakutia-Our Opinion recommended that Russia officially endorse the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.[15] Yakutia-Our Opinion also recommended the ratification of the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention no.169.[16]

14. JS4 recommended that Russia accede the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons.[17]

15. JS1 recommended the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime.[18]

B. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

1. Cross cutting issues

Equality and non-discrimination[19]

16. JS6 recommended that the Government adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, with the definition of all forms of discrimination in accordance to international standards.[20]

17. IBAHRI stated that homophobia is a widespread phenomenon in Russia: homophobic statements or comments made by Russian officials and media contribute to widespread and ongoing intolerance towards the LGBT community.[21] JS6 observed that fear to become subject of discrimination among the LGBT community is caused by deep-rooted prejudice from law enforcement officers.[22] IBAHRI recommended that the national legislation be aligned with international obligations to protect individuals from discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation and gender identity.[23] HRW recommended that the Government condemn the use of hate speech regarding to LGBT people and issues related to their lives and health.[24]

18. Intersex Russia (IR) reported that intersex people are experiencing violations of their basic human rights, including the right to full informed consent, physical integrity and self-determination. Medically "normalizing" surgeries are performed on intersex people, often done without their full, free and informed consent.[25] IR recommended ensuring that human rights violations against intersex people are investigated, alleged perpetrators prosecuted, and victims have access to effective remedy, including redress and compensation.[26]

19. JS10 reported that Russian law provisions as amended by Federal Law 135-FZ "on Amending certain laws of the Russian Federation with the view to protect children from information propagating the negation of traditional family values" attempted to censor and stigmatise LGBTI people and prevents the free flow of information, including in areas of critical importance such as healthcare and education. JS10 added that authorities frequently refuse permission to public assemblies organised by LGBTI groups.[27] HRW, JS10 and JS6 recommended repealing Federal Law 135-FZ.[28]

20. JS6 reported cases of enforced disappearances and torture of people for homosexuality in Chechnya.[29] IBAHRI recommended that the authorities conduct impartial and effective investigations to allegations of detentions, torture and other ill-treatments of gay men in Chechnya.[30]

21. JS8 reported that sex workers suffer stigma and discrimination, legal persecution, police harassment and lack of legal protection.[31] JS8 recommended establishing HIV and other health services for sex workers.[32]

22. JS6 stated that people belonging to minorities like Roma, people from North and South Caucasus origin, migrant workers coming from Central Asia and other minorities

face ethnic discrimination and become victims of hate crime and hate speech.[33] JS6 also noted that Roma people are often victims of ethnic profiling in arbitrary arrests and detention, fingerprinting and confiscation of documents.[34]

23. The European Center for the Development of Democracy (ECDD) stated that it was necessary to pay more attention to the prevention of ethno-religious profiling in the labour law enforcement officers' work and recommended developing training for law enforcement officers to eradicate stereotypes, prejudice against various ethnic, religious groups and migrants.[35]

24. ECDD recommended improving anti-discrimination legislation, paying special attention to adjusting the relevant definitions of discrimination thus preventing a free interpretation of the concept of discrimination.[36]

Development, the environment, and business and human rights[37]

25. JS7 recommended that the State develop a national action plan aimed at the realisation of the UN Guiding Principles on business and human rights, taking into account the 2013 report of the Working Group on the Issue of Human Rights and Transnational Corporations and other Business Enterprises.[38]

2. Civil and Political Rights

Right to life, liberty and security of person[39]

26. Czech Helsinki Committee (CHC) recommended investigating and punishing persons involved in torture and ill-treatment of inmates in places of confinement.[40] CHC recommended providing prisons and penal colonies with adequate medical services and providing necessary medical assistance to persons in need with no discrimination.[41]

27. IBAHRI recommended that the authorities end the use of arbitrary detention, torture, other forms of ill-treatment and excessive force by law enforcement officials in Chechnya.[42] HRW recommended an immediate shut down of all unofficial detention facilities in Chechnya and that Chechen authorities immediately stop collective punishment and public humiliation practices.[43]

Administration of justice, including impunity and the rule of law[44]

28. Yakutia-Our Opinion stated that in Russia there is no effective system for handling citizens' complaints and addressing violations by public authorities, law enforcement and judicial authorities.[45] Yakutia-Our Opinion recommended ensuring objective consideration of statements on corruption offenses; and strengthening responsibility of officials, law enforcement officers and judges for human rights violations.[46]

29. Advocates for Human Rights (AHR) reported that law enforcement officials' response to domestic violence is ineffective because of stereotypical attitudes, including attitudes that blame the victim, or that suggest the abuser has the right to beat family members.[47] AHR recommended ensuring that all allegations of domestic violence are documented in a written report by responding law enforcement officers, and that all reported cases of domestic violence are investigated, criminally prosecuted, and appropriately punished upon conviction.[48]

30. Lawyers for Lawyers (L4L) reported that lawyers encounter difficulties in carrying out their profession independently and denounced attempts by investigative authorities to disrupt the work of lawyers.[49] L4L recommended that the Government take measures to prevent harassment of lawyers and interference in their professional duties and investigate any crime, harassment and other violations against lawyers.[50] It also recommended the

implementation of the UPR Working Group 2013 recommendations to ensure the proper functioning of the judicial system and the right to a fair trial.[51]

Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life[52]

31. ADF International stated that anti-terrorism concerns must not be utilized to crack down on religious groups which have not demonstrated any inclination to violence or criminality under reasonable and justifiable law.[53] ADF International recommended removing criminal prohibitions on religious or belief communities operating on an unregistered basis and ceasing all restrictions on the right to freedom of opinion and expression.[54]

32. HRW recommended repealing the 2013 law making it a criminal offense to "offend the religious feelings of believers."[55]

33. Forum 18 noted that since the previous April 2013 and February 2009 UPRs, the Government has been increasing systemic violations of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and belief, in particular through restrictive laws.[56] It noted that the 2002 Extremism Law and associated articles of the Criminal and Administrative Codes are regularly used against religious communities and individuals and that since 2017, the authorities' hostility has focused on Jehovah's Witnesses and Muslims.[57] HRW recommended reversing the ban on the Jehovah's Witnesses organization.[58]

34. OSCE - ODIHR stated that a number of laws introducing restrictions on the activities of civil society organizations, including those involved in election observation of genuine democratic elections, are still in place due to restrictive implementation of the legislation guaranteeing freedoms of association, assembly and expression.[59]

35. JS2 indicated that "anti-terrorist" Russian legislation is used as a tool to oppress Muslims in Crimea.[60] JS2 recommended that the Government stop unjustified criminal prosecution of Muslims on religious grounds; and end the restrictions placed on religious associations, including laws that severely restrict freedom of religion or belief.[61]

36. Autonomous Advocacy (A=A) recommended that the Government reconsider legislation and legal proceedings in the field of fighting extremism to ensure strong protection of human rights, especially civic and religious freedoms, personal autonomy in cultural rights, and to compensate damages for wrongful conviction of Muslims, accused of extremism for peaceful worship.[62]

37. HRW reported that in an attempt to control the internet, the Parliament has since 2012 adopted numerous laws that limit or can be used to interfere with freedom of speech and information.[63]

38. OSCE-ODIHR stated that in 2014 to 2016, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media issued statements of concern on several legal developments and individual cases of excessive restrictions on freedom of the media in the Russian Federation. In March 2016, unknown perpetrators attacked six journalists and two human rights activists, apparently in connection to their human rights-related reporting.[64]

39. Reporters Without Borders (RWB) noted that Russia failed to implement recommendations relating to freedom of press and information that it accepted during the last UPR cycle. RWB added that the pressure on independent media has steadily grown and makes it harder and harder for Russian citizen to access independently reported news and information.[65] Moreover, laws recently adopted by the Russian Parliament have increasingly restricted the right of Russian citizens to information and freedom of expression.[66]

40. RWB urged the Russian authorities to free all journalists who are imprisoned in connection with their professional activities, and to ensure that freedom of speech can only be restricted by a court decision, provided by law, pursuing a legitimate aim. It also recommended that the Government guarantee media pluralism.[67]

41. JS10 reported that the Government has failed to respond to violence against journalists, including murders, physical attacks and threats, creating a climate of impunity that encourages further attacks. Three journalists have been killed since 2013. In 2016, 54 cases of attacks and 44 incidences of threats against journalists or media outlets were documented. JS10 recommended preventing threats and violence against journalists, media workers, human rights defenders and activists, and ending impunity for such crimes, including by ensuring impartial, prompt, thorough, independent and effective investigations into all alleged crimes and holding those responsible to account.[68] JS5 made a similar statement and recommendations.[69]

42. JS10 stated that Article 15 of Federal Law 139-FZ established a 'blacklist', administered by the government agency tasked with overseeing online content and mass media. The content of websites included in the list is prohibited, and all internet service providers (ISPs) based in Russia are obliged to immediately block access to it. The above-mentioned agency is empowered to block websites at the request of government agencies without judicial oversight. JS10 recommended guaranteeing internet users' right to publish and browse anonymously and ensure that any restrictions to online anonymity are subject to a court order, fully complying with Article 19(3) of the ICCPR.[70]

43. HRW reported that a 2015 Data Storage law, which applies to email services, social media networks, and search engines prohibits storage of Russian citizen's personal data on servers located outside Russia. Since 2016, Russian authorities have blocked access to several websites and applications or threatened to do so for non-compliance with that law.[71] HRW recommended repealing the 2015 data storage legislation requiring service providers to store Russian personal data on Russian territory.[72]

44. HRW also recommended to repeal the 2013 law authorizing the prosecutor general to extra-judicially block access to online sources that "disseminate calls for mass riots, extremist activities or participation in unsanctioned public events."[73]

45. JS10 stated that since 2012, legislation on public assemblies has been repeatedly amended, severely restricting individuals' ability to peacefully protest. Authorities have broad discretion to refuse approval for protests entirely, or force their relocation to remote areas, rendering them meaningless.[74] JS10 recommended refraining from detaining individuals for peaceful protest and amending protest-related legislation to bring it in line with international standards.[75]

46. HRW stated that since 2012 new legislation has imposed restrictions on free assembly. Authorities increasingly refused to authorize protest rallies, arbitrarily detained and ill-treated peaceful protesters, and subjected them to administrative and criminal penalties.[76] JS5 stated that following the adoption of the new anti-terrorism laws, several activists have been charged, and some of them convicted for expressing views allegedly sympathetic to terrorism.[77]

47. HRW reported that in spring and summer 2017, government critics in numerous cities across Russia held peaceful anti-corruption protests that authorities refused to authorize. Officials harassed and intimidated protesters, including schoolchildren and university students, and parents whose children participated.[78] HRW recommended that authorities refrain from resorting to detention against peaceful participants in unauthorized public assemblies, and ensure accountability for police who use excessive force against peaceful protesters.[79]

48. JS5 reported that a spate of restrictive laws passed since 2012 has severely constrained the work of civil society organizations and impeded the exercise of the right to the freedom of association.[80] HRW explained that since the 2012 Foreign Agents Law, nongovernmental groups are branded as "foreign agents" if they engage in "political activity" while receiving foreign funding.[81] To avoid placement on the registry or to get off the registry, many NGOs are compelled to refuse foreign funding, reduce activities that risk retaliation, reduce visibility, and engage in self-censorship; some choose to close.[82] Also, NGOs on the "foreign agents" list are fined for thousands of dollars and receive penalties.[83]

49. According to HRW, once branded "foreign agents," independent organizations are likely to be targeted by radical nationalist groups and nationalist smear campaigns.[84] Exercise of activities of organisations declared "undesirable" in Russia is prohibited, and all persons participating in any of their activities are subject to administrative and criminal sanctions.[85]

50. JS3 stated that the Foreign Agents Law and the Undesirable Law directly hinder NGO's freedom of opinion and expression.[86] For Human Rights House, this law is the highest threat to freedom of association in Russia.[87]

51. The CoE Commissioner for Human Rights observed that the provisions of the Law on Foreign Agents introduced unjustified discriminatory treatment for a particular set of organizations, and that subsequent amendments to the legislation had rendered the environment for NGOs deemed to be "foreign agents" even more restrictive. The main concerns related to the broad and vague character of the term "political activity", lending itself to the law's arbitrary application, as well as disproportionate sanctions, including criminal liability for "malicious" non-compliance. The Commissioner added that the application of this law had led to considerable interference with the free exercise of the rights to freedom of association and expression of many NGOs and human rights defenders, sometimes with severe consequences.[88]

52. JS3 reported that NGOs that serve minorities and vulnerable groups are inordinately targeted by government enforcement actions under the Foreign Agent Law and the Undesirable Law.[89] HRW, JS3 and Human Rights House recommended that Russia repeal both the Foreign Agents Law and the Undesirable Law.[90]

53. JS5 reported that since 2012, a series of laws have been passed to: reintroduce defamation as a criminal offence and impose steep fines on media outlets publishing allegedly defamatory public statements; increase internet censorship; and expand the definition of treason to allow the Government to brand critics as traitors.[91] JS5 recommended ensuring freedom of expression and media freedom by bringing all national legislation into line with international standards.[92]

54. The CoE Commissioner for Human Rights recommended that the authorities in the Russian Federation, both federal and regional, adopt a series of measures at institutional, legal and political levels, to ensure the protection of human rights defenders at risk and promote an enabling environment for their work.[93] JS5 recommended taking measures to foster a safe, respectful and enabling environment for civil society, including through removing legal and policy measures that unwarrantedly limit the right to association.[94]

3. Economic, social and cultural rights

Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work[95]

55. HRW recommended ending workers' rights violations in the construction sector, through rigorous inspections and accountability for employers who exploit and abuse workers and issuing a high-level public message of zero tolerance for worker abuse.[96]

Right to an adequate standard of living[97]

56. Yakutia-Our Opinion reported that social injustice in Russia led to mass poverty and social problems such as alcoholism, drug addiction, suicides and crime.[98] Yakutia-Our Opinion recommended increasing the minimum social standards of living and increasing salaries to at least three times the adjusted cost of living.[99]

Right to education[100]

57. JS6 reported the segregation of Roma children at school and noted that disabled people and people having health problems are facing serious obstacles to access education.[101]

4. Rights of specific persons or groups

Women[102]

58. Advocates for Human Rights (AHR) reported that there is no specific crime of domestic violence under Russia's Criminal Code. In July 2016, the Parliament decriminalized non-aggravated battery in most circumstances, making such offenses administrative rather than criminal. In January 2017, a further amendment decriminalized violence against close persons.[103] AHR recommended amending the Criminal Code to criminalize domestic violence, including assaults with low-level injuries, and ensure that criminal penalties increase for repeated domestic violence offenses.[104]

59. HRW stated that domestic violence is widespread in Russia: officials routinely fail to investigate or even respond to domestic violence allegations. Domestic violence victims suffer social stigma.[105]

60. AHR stated that the Foreign Agents Law hinders the capacity of civil society to respond to the needs of victims of domestic violence.[106] AHR recommended ensuring and supporting free and accessible legal representation for victims of domestic violence; and repealing or modifying the Foreign Agents Law so human and civil rights organizations that assist domestic violence victims are not hindered in their work.[107]

61. JS6 stated that the Russian authorities insist on restriction of the women's rights to work explaining this by "care for reproductive health of women." It observed that despite the 2016 CEDAW's observations, the list of banned professions still has legal power, and limits the working rights of women.[108]

62. HRW recommended that Russia end the "women's virtue" campaign and take proactive step to ensure the rights and equality of women and girls in Chechnya.[109]

Children[110]

63. JS1 reported that the number of children falling victim to sexual exploitation is on the rise. Russian children are trafficked from rural to urban areas, subjected to forced prostitution in Russia's metropolises, but also trafficked abroad.[111] JS1 recommended that the Government bring national legislation fully in line with the rights afforded to Russian children through the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and the Council of Europe Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (the Lanzarote Convention).[112]

64. JS1 stated that the National Children's Strategy for 2012–2017, focused on protecting children in difficult life situations, does not include specific provisions to prevent and combat their sexual exploitation.[113] JS1 recommended creating an interagency working group in charge of combatting violence against children, including sexual exploitation, and incorporate its activities into the next National Children's Strategy.[114] It also recommended

providing tailor-made recovery and reintegration services to victims, as well as preventive and awareness raising activities to protect children from sexual exploitation.[115]

65. Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children (GIEACPC) reported that corporal punishment of children in Russia is lawful in the home, in alternative care and in some day care settings. It is unlawful in schools, penal institutions and as a sentence for a crime.[116] GIEACPC hoped the Working Group will make a specific recommendation that Russia draft and enact, as a matter of priority, legislation to clearly prohibit all corporal punishment of children in every setting of their lives including the home.[117]

66. JS6 reported attempts to remove Roma children from their family and place them in orphanages and also noted that Roma people are still often victims of ethnic profiling in arbitrary arrests and detention, fingerprinting and confiscation of documents.[118]

Persons with disabilities[119]

67. According to HRW, reports of serious physical and emotional abuse against children and adults with disabilities in state institutions persist. In 2013-2014, HRW researchers visited 10 state orphanages for children with disabilities and found that many children face physical and psychological violence and neglect, and are denied adequate healthcare, education and leisure.[120]

Minorities and indigenous peoples[121]

68. Cultural Survival (CS), JS7 and Yakutia-Our opinion observed that Indigenous Peoples in the Russian Federation continue to be politically marginalized and see their rights to land and resources denied.[122] According to CS, the Russian increasing dependence on extractive industries, as a result of international sanctions for Russian activities in Crimea, has exacerbated these problems in recent years.[123]

69. CS alerted that the indigenous women of the Russian Federation are largely ignored in human rights reporting and lack of political and legal representation at governmental level. There is no institutionalized promotion of indigenous women and violence against them is common and often ignored.[124]

70. CS and JS7 recommended the harmonisation of the various laws on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, particularly regarding their access to land and natural resources.[125]

71. CS recommended the creation of a National Action Plan on implementing the rights of Indigenous Peoples, based on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples' outcome document.[126]

72. JS7 observed that since the adoption of the Federal Law "on territories of Traditional Nature Use of Indigenous Minority Peoples of the Russian Federation", the federal authorities have failed to establish or confirm the existence of any territories of traditional nature use (TTNU).[127] Furthermore, JS7 reported that due to the Government's failure to confirm existing TTNU, their status is highly dependent on the goodwill of the local administration and vulnerable to changes at any time.[128]

73. JS7 recommended that Russia revert the changes introduced to the Federal Law on Traditional Nature weakening the right to indigenous communities and local authorities to participate in the decision-making regarding operations of third parties such as extractive industries in these territories and organize a broad and inclusive dialogue.[129]

74. JS7 recommended that the Russian Federation comply with the recommendations made by CERD, CESCR and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to compile and provide detailed data regarding the socio-economic status of the country's

population, disaggregated by ethnicity, in order to ensure that the effectiveness and adequacy of its measures can be objectively verified and adjusted.[130]

75. JS7 also recommended that Russia should improve the precarious situation of Indigenous Peoples, guarantee their right to education, unrestricted use of their lands and territories, address the problem of underrepresentation in State institutions at the federal and regional levels and follow other principles enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.[131]

76. Yakutia-Our Opinion stated that Russian authorities do not fully respect the rights of small-numbered Indigenous Peoples. Despite the existence of natural resources, the majority of multinational people of Yakutia live in poverty.[132] Yakutia-Our Opinion recommended recognizing the status of the indigenous people Sakha.[133]

Stateless persons[134]

77. JS4 informed that discrimination against stateless persons has become entrenched in all spheres of public life and that the authorities restrict their access to basic human rights.[135] JS4 observed that in some cases, discrimination against stateless persons is aggravated by the factor of ethnicity.[136] JS4 also regretted that the Russian authorities have not taken any measures to implement the European Court of Human Rights judgment in relation to stateless persons and other detainees in Centres for Temporary Detention of Foreign Nationals (CTDFNs).[137] JS4 highlighted the inhuman and degrading conditions of stateless persons confined in CTDFNs and in particular the situation of women and migrants.[138]

5. Specific regions or territories

78. JS2 reported that, in relation with the occupation of Crimea, the number of political prisoners continues to grow,[139] and that Russian authorities have used torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in politically motivated cases against Ukrainian citizens in Crimea.[140] JS2 recommended releasing prisoners who were arrested in Crimea for political activities, including those peacefully protesting against the occupation,[141] and it recommended investigating and prosecuting all cases of torture in Crimea.[142]

79. ODIHR and the High Commissioner on National Minorities confirmed that the de facto authorities in Crimea abusively applied vague charges of "extremism" and "separatism" under criminal law of the Russian Federation to a wide variety of assemblies, speeches and activities. Numerous such criminal proceedings appeared to be politically motivated, directed especially at pro-Ukrainian human rights defenders, without due process guarantees for the accused and without effective remedies for alleged procedural violations.[143]

80. JS2 reported that the occupation of Crimea was accompanied by a number of enforced disappearances including detention or other forms of deprivation of liberty, by agents of the Russian Federation or by persons or groups of persons acting with their support.[144] JS2 recommended investigating all alleged cases of enforced disappearance in Crimea and disclosing the fate and whereabouts of all those arbitrarily deprived of liberty and inform their families accordingly.[145]

81. JS2 stated that the Russian Federation drafts citizens of Ukraine in Crimea into its army. Criminal and administrative laws, as well as information and economic resources, are used by the Russian Federation to force Crimean residents to serve in the Russian Armed Forces.[146] JS2 recommended that the Government stop the call for Ukrainian citizens to enter the Russian Armed Forces.[147]

82. HRW reported that since the beginning of Russia's occupation of Crimea in February 2014, Russian and de facto Crimean authorities have created a climate of pervasive fear and repression, nearly eliminating free speech and media on certain issues. Authorities have pressured and persecuted journalists who have openly criticized Russia's actions in Crimea.[148]

83. JS10 reported that following the annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation in 2014, Russian authorities and the de facto Crimean authorities have pursued a crackdown on independent media, opposition politicians and activists.[149] JS10 recommended ceasing all actions that target activists, political opposition, journalists and others individuals detained for criticising the Russian annexation of Crimea or expressing support for Crimean Tartars. JS10 also recommended the immediate and unconditional release of those detained and ensure that all disappearances of activists and other individuals are effectively investigated.[150]

84. JS2 reported that the establishment of the Russian Federation's control over the Crimean territory was accompanied by a process of curtailment of freedom of speech and expression of opinions.[151] JS2 recommended ensuring that journalists have unrestricted access to, and the freedom to conduct their professional activities in Crimea, including those from mainland Ukraine; and investigating all reported instances of unlawful detention, intimidation and harassment of journalists in Crimea, and bringing those suspected of criminal responsibility to justice in fair trials.[152]

85. JS2 also stated that the Russian authorities used brutal tactics against participants in peaceful assemblies in the first year of the occupation: attacks of so called 'Crimean self-defence' and other 'non-identified persons' in the events supporting the territorial integrity of Ukraine, abductions and murders of their participants in spring 2014, mass detentions, arrests of single activists, and the violent dispersal of protests.[153]

86. JS2 and Human Rights House recommended stopping arbitrary administrative and criminal persecutions of participants in peaceful events and protests.[154]

87. According to RWB, censorship has reached a critical level in occupied Crimea with media being closed and journalists being harassed and threatened. It also stated that independent journalism has been almost completely eradicated in Chechnya and in occupied Crimea.[155]

88. According to HRW, after the beginning of Russia's occupation of Crimea and the start of the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine in 2014, Russian authorities have stepped up their practice of using vague and overly broad anti-extremism laws to stifle dissenting voices and promote self-censorship.[156]

89. JS2 reported that the number of pupils studying in Ukrainian has reduced 36 times during the occupation.[157] JS2 recommended ensuring full and unimpeded access to education in the native languages in Crimea, including Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar languages.[158]

90. JS2 stated that the Russian Federation has started a wide-scale nationalisation of private as well as state property located in Crimea and in the city of Sevastopol.[159] JS2 recommended ending an extensive appropriation of state and private property in Crimea on the basis of regulations and orders of occupying authorities.[160]

Notes

[1] The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all

original submissions are available at www.ohchr.org (One asterisk denotes a national human rights institution with "A" status).

Civil society

Individual submissions:

A=A	Autonomous Advocacy, Kyiv (Ukraine);
ADF International	ADF International, Geneva (Switzerland);
AHR	Advocates for Human Rights, Minneapolis (United States of America);
CHC	Česky helsinsky vybor z.s. Prague (Czech Republic);
CS	Cultural Survival, Cambridge (United States of America);
ECDD	Eiropas demokrātijas attīstības centrs, Riga (Latvia);
Equality Now	Equality Now, Nairobi (Kenya);
Forum 18	Forum 18, Oslo (Norway);
GIEACPC	Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, London, (United Kingdom);
HRW	Human Rights Watch, Geneva (Switzerland);
Human Rights House	Human Rights House Foundation, Geneva, (Switzerland);
IBAHRI	International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute, London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
IR	Intersex Russia, Troitsk (Russian Federation);
L4L	Lawyers for Lawyers, Amsterdam (Netherlands);
NGO Yakutia - Our Opinion	NGO Yakutia - Our Opinion, Yakutsk, (Russian Federation);
RSF-RWB	Reporters Without Borders International, Paris (France);

Joint submissions:

JS1	**Joint submission 1 submitted by:** ECPAT International, Stellit and the Russian Alliance against CSEC, Bangkok, (Thailand);
JS2	**Joint submission 2 submitted by**: Human Rights House Foundation, Crimean Human Rights Group, Human Rights Information Center, Regional Centre for Human Rights, Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union Geneva (Switzerland);
JS3	**Joint submission 3 submitted by:** Mark Kalla, Linda Foreman, Minneapolis (United States of America);
JS4	**Joint submission 4 submitted by:** Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion, Anti-Discrimination Centre Memorial European Network on Statelessness, Eindhoven (Netherlands);
JS5	**Joint submission 5 submitted by:** CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation and Citizens' Watch, Johannesburg (South Africa);
JS6	**Joint submission 6 submitted by:** Russian LGBT Network, ADC Memorial, Saint Petersburg (Russian Federation);
JS7	**Joint submission 7 submitted by:** International Work Group for Indigenous Affair, Institut für Ökologie und Aktions-Ethnologie (INFOE) Melchiorstraße, Copenhagen (Denmark);
JS8	**Joint submission 8 submitted by:** Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, Russian Public Mechanism for Monitoring of Drug Policy reform, Russian movement of activists and advocates for sex workers' rights 'Silver Rose', a Russian MSM NGO Phoenix PLUS and Foundation for Social Justice (Toronto, Canada);
JS9	**Joint submission 9 submitted by:** International Human Rights Clinic at Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, International Human Rights Clinic at Loyola Law School, Los

	Angeles Sutyajnik, Los Angeles (United States of America);
JS10	**Joint submission 10 submitted by**: ARTICLE 19, Mass Media Defence Centre, OVD-Info, PEN International, Roskomsvoboda and the Sova Centre, London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

National human rights institution

CHRRF [6]	The High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation[6], Moscow, Russian Federation

Regional intergovernmental organization(s)

CoE	The Council of Europe, Strasbourg (France);
OSCE-ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights/Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Warsaw (Poland).

[1] CHRRF, para. 1, related to recommendations 140.28 and 140.29. For the full text of recommendations see A/HRC/24/14. Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the Russian Federation can be found in A/HRC/24/14/Add.1.

[2] CHRRF, para. 1, related to recommendations 140.28 and 140.29. For the full text of recommendations see A/HRC/24/14.

[3] CHRRF, para. 2, related to recommendations 140.219, 140.220 and 140.221. For the full text of recommendations see A/HRC/24/14.

[4] CHRRF, para. 3, related to recommendations 140.50, 140.51 and 140.198. For the full text of recommendations see A/HRC/24/14.

[5] CHRRF, para. 4, related to recommendations 140.201. For the full text of recommendations see A/HRC/24/14.

[6] CHRRF, para. 5, related to recommendations 140.31, 140.51, 140.53, 140.213, 140.214, 140.216. For the full text of recommendations see A/HRC/24/14.

[7] CHRRF, para. 6, related to recommendations 140.132, 140.133, 140.120, 140.124, 140.128, 140.130. For the full text of recommendations see A/HRC/24/14.

[8] CHRRF, para. 8.

[9] The following abbreviations are used in UPR documents:

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR;
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR;
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty;
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW;
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT;
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child;
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict;
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;
OP-CRC-IC	Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure;
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to CRPD;

ICPPED International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

[11] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/24/14, paras. 140.1-140.22, 140.55, 140.73, 140.65-72, 140.74, 140.164. Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the Russian Federation can be found in A/HRC/24/14/Add.1.
[12] IBAHRI, page 4.
[13] Human Rights House, page 8, para. 51.
[14] CoE., page 5, para. 4 ; JS1, page 6.
[15] CS, page 3, para. 1 ; JS7, page 9, para. 3 ; Yakutia-our opinion, page 5, para. 3.
[16] Yakutia-our opinion, page 5, para. 3.
[17] JS4, page 10, para. 41.
[18] JS1, page 6.
[19] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/24/14, paras. 140.75-76, 140.80-140.95, 140.97, 140.138. See also A/HRC/24/14/Add.1.
[20] JS6, page 10, IX.
[21] IBAHRI, page 3, para. 3.1.
[22] JS6, page 8, para. 30.
[23] IBAHRI, page 4.
[24] HRW, page 11, para. 6.
[25] IR, page 2.
[26] IR, page 7, paras. 3 and 14.
[27] JS10, page 9, para. 50.
[28] HRW, page 11, para. 6 ; JS10, page 10, para. 51; JS6, page 11.
[29] JS6, page 8, paras. 33 and 34.
[30] IBAHRI, page 4.
[31] JS8, page 4, para. 19.
[32] JS8, page 2, para. 3.
[33] JS6, page 3, para. 8.
[34] JS6, page 3, para. 9.
[35] ECDD, page 3-4.
[36] ECDD, pages 3-4.
[37] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/24/14, paras. 140.64, 140.230. See also A/HRC/24/14/Add.1.
[38] JS7, page 9.
[39] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/24/14, paras. 140.96, 140.98-140.104, 140.116-140.119, 140.132-140.135, 140.187-192. See also A/HRC/24/14/Add.1.
[40] CHC, page 3, para. 13.
[41] CHC, page 4, para. 18.
[42] IBAHRI, page 4.
[43] HRW, page 9.
[44] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/24/14, paras. 140.105, 140.120-125, 140.127-140.129, 140.130-140.131, 140.137, 140.139. See also A/HRC/24/14/Add.1.
[45] Yakutia-Our Opinion, page 3, para. 2.
[46] Yakutia-Our Opinion, page 4, para. 2.
[47] AHR, page 4, para. 16.
[48] AHR, page 6, para. 24.
[49] I.4I., page 3, paras. 9 and 10.
[50] I.4I., pages 1 and 6, paras. 4 and 13 (b) and (c).
[51] I.4I., pages 1 and 6, paras. 4 and 14 (e).
[52] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/24/14, paras. 140.65, 140.144-140.154, 140.156-140.163, 140.166-140.168, 140.170-140.180, 140-181-140.184, 140.186, 140.193. See also A/HRC/24/14/Add.1.
[53] ADF International, para. 17.
[54] ADF International, para. 18 (b) and (c).
[55] HRW, page 6. Para. 1.
[56] Forum 18, page 1, para. 1.

[57] Forum 18, page 2, para. 11.
[58] HRW, page 8, para. 3.
[59] OSCE-ODIHR, page 2, para 4. All reports can be found on http://osce.org/odihr/elections/russia.
[60] JS2, page 8, para. 50.
[61] JS2, page 8, paras 51 and 52.
[62] A+A, para. 20.
[63] HRW, page 5, para. 1.
[64] OSCE-ODIHR, page 8.
[65] RWB, page 1, para. 2.
[66] RWB, page 1, para. 3.
[67] RWB, Page 5.
[68] JS10, page 8, para. 42.
[69] JS5, paras. 3.2, 3.3, 3.6, 6.2.
[70] JS10, page 5, para. 28.
[71] HRW, page 5, para.2.
[72] HRW, page 6, Para. 1.
[73] HRW, page 6, para. 1.
[74] JS10, page 8, para. 44.
[75] JS10, page 9, para. 47.
[76] HRW, page 3, para 8.
[77] JS5, para.3.2, 3.3.
[78] HRW, page 4, para. 4.
[79] HRW, page 4, para. 7.
[80] JS5, para. 2.3.
[81] HRW, page 2, para. 4.
[82] HRW, page 2, para. 5.
[83] HRW, page 2, para. 6 and 7.
[84] HRW, page 3, para 1.
[85] JS5, paras. 2.3 and 2.8.
[86] JS3, page 6, para. 24.
[87] Human Rights House, page 1 and 2, para. 1.
[88] CoE, page 3.
[89] JS3, page 6, para. 22.
[90] HRW, Page 3, para 7; JS3, page 11, para. 43; Human Rights House, page 6, paras 31 and 32.
[91] JS5, page 11, para. 4.2.
[92] JS5, page 19, para. 6.3.
[93] CoE, page 3.
[94] JS5, page 18, para. 6.1.
[95] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/24/14, paras. 140.79 and 140.202. See also A/HRC/24/14/Add.1.
[96] HRW, page 12, para. 3.
[97] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/24/14, paras. 140.197, 140.200-140.201. See also A/HRC/24/14/Add.1.
[98] Yakutia-Our Opinion, pages 1 and 2, para. 1.
[99] Yakutia-Our Opinion, page 2, para. 1.
[100] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/24/14, paras. 140.205-140.206. See also A/HRC/24/14/Add.1.
[101] JS6, page 4, para. 11 and page 6, para. 24.
[102] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/24/14, paras. 140.51, 140.54, 140.77-140.79, 140.106-140.115, 140.142. See also A/HRC/24/14/Add.1.
[103] AHR, page 2, paras. 8, 9 and 10.
[104] AHR, page 5, para. 24.
[105] HRW, page 10, paras.1 and 2.
[106] AHR, pages 3 and 4, paras. 15 and 17.
[107] AHR, page 5, para. 24.
[108] JS6, page 5, paras. 18 and 19.

[109] HRW, page 9.
[110] For relevant recommendations A/HRC/24/14, paras. 140.43-140.47. See also A/HRC/24/14/Add.1.
[111] JS1, pages 2 and 3, paras. 6, 7, 8 and 9.
[112] JS1, page 6.
[113] JS1, page 4, para. 17.
[114] JS1, page 6.
[115] JS1, page 6.
[116] GIE/ACPC, page 2, para. 2.
[117] GIE/ACPC, page 1, para. 1.3.
[118] JS6, page 3, para. 9.
[119] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/24/14, paras. 140.53, 140.213-140.216. See also A/HRC/24/14/Add.1.
[120] HRW, page 12, para.4.
[121] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/24/14, paras. 140.34-140.42, 140.52, 140.217-140.218, 140.219-140.223. See also A/HRC/24/14/Add.1.
[122] CS, page 2, I and page 4, B; JS7, page 4, para. 8; Yakutia-Our Opinion, page 3, para. 3.
[123] CS, page 2, I.
[124] CS, page 6, C.
[125] CS, page 3, para. 2; JS7, page 6, para 1.2.
[126] CS, page 7, VI. 3.
[127] JS7, page 3, paras. 2, 3 and 4.
[128] JS7, page 5, para. 10.
[129] JS7, page 5, para. 11.
[130] JS7, page 6, para. 14.
[131] JS7, page 8, para. 1.4.
[132] Yakutia-Our Opinion, page 4, para. 3.
[133] Yakutia-Our Opinion, page 5, para. 3.
[134] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/24/14, paras. 140. See also A/HRC/24/14/Add.1.
[135] JS4, page 4, para. 15.
[136] JS4, page 4, para. 16.
[137] JS4, page 3, para. 11.
[138] JS4, pages 8 and 9, paras. 32 to 38.
[139] JS2, page 2, para. 5.
[140] JS2, page 2 and 3, paras. 7 and 8.
[141] JS2, page 2, para. 6.
[142] JS2, page 3, para. 14.
[143] OSCE-ODIHR, pages 6 and 7.
[144] JS2, page 3 and 4, para. 16.
[145] JS2, page 4, para. 20.
[146] JS2, pages 8 and 9, paras. 53 and 57.
[147] JS2, page 9, para. 60.
[148] HRW, page 6, para.2.
[149] JS10, page 10, paras. 52 and 53.
[150] JS10, page 10, para. 57.
[151] JS2, page 10, paras. 62 and 65.
[152] JS2, page 11, paras. 68 and 69.
[153] JS2, page 11, para. 72.
[154] JS2, page 12, paras. 81; Human Rights House, page 8, para.45.
[155] RWB, page 4, para 2.
[156] HRW, page 5, para. 3.
[157] JS2, page 13, paras. 84 and 85.
[158] JS2, page 13, para. 87.
[159] JS2, page 6, para. 38.
[160] JS2, page 7, para. 42.